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was chosen for obvious reasons. A ten hours ride by river and rail brought us to the "Ancient City" as its antiquated people delight to call it. The beauties of the floral scenery of the St. Johns have been so often recounted by admiring tourists that I will say little. There is something of interest to the lover of nature in its grand old Live Oaks, Cypress trees, Palmettoes, and other peculiar forms of the vegetable world that ornament the banks in a dense overhanging canopy of green or gray.

Having said this much in a general way, I will now note such species of plants as I found in blossom, leaving for another time much that was interesting about the foliage and hardy parts of a flora that possesses even in its winter dress an exceeding interest. At St. Augustine I collected in January, *Aster flexuosus*, Nutt., abundant on salt marshes; *Houstonia rotundifolia*, Gr., in woody situations; of Ferns, which always attract the eye, some species are abundant; on the roofs of houses and trunks of trees, *Polypodium incanum*, Swt., and *Vittaria lineata*, Swt., the latter confined to the palmetto. In the pine barrens near the city was found *Pteris aquilina*, L., and its variety *caudata*. The list from St. Augustine is meagre, but an examination of my collection will show a large number of species representing the wood, foliage, etc.

At Cedar Keys I found a more interesting field by following the footprints of Dr. Garber who collected here last year I believe. The results obtained from Jan. 15th to Feb. 10th are: On Sea Horse Key, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, Ait., *Chaptalia tomentosa*, Vent., *Solidago* — —? *Physalis lanceolata*, Mx. On the mainland I obtained *Pinguicula pumila*, Mx., *Pinguicula lutea*, Walt., *Lycium Carolinianum*, Mx., both in flower and fruit. *Borreria frutescens*, DC., the two last on salt marshes near high tide. The *Lycium* I found on both coasts.

On Way Key, *Crotalaria ovalis*, Pursh., *Chiococca racemosa*, Jacq., *Alnus serrulata*, Ait. On Cedar Key, *Vachellia Farnesiana*, W. and Arn.

The *Ceratiola ericoides*, Nutt., and *Zamia integrifolia*, Willd., are abundant on the main land, and with many other evergreen forms add beauty and variety to the landscape.

In the vicinity of Gainesville I secured, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, L., *Astragalus obcordatus*, Ell., *Ascyrum amplexicaule*, Mx., *Vaccinium myrsinites*, Mx., *Hypoxis erecta*, L., *Viola sagittata*, Ait., *Viola primulaefolia*, L., *Prunus Caroliniensis*, Ait., *Cornus florida*, L., *Cercis Canadensis*, L., *Acer rubrum*, L., *Pyrus arbutifolia*, L. var. *erythrocarpa*, *Chaptalia tomentosa*, Vent. Of ferns, *Asplenium ebenum* and *Woodwardia angustifolia* were found near the "sink." The curious *Lycopodium alopecuroides* and *Sphagnum squarrosum*, occur in wet, pine barren bogs. The yellow Jessamine exists by millions everywhere, climbing trees to the height of twenty feet or more. The *Utricularia subulata*, L., is found at Baldwin in ditches and shallow ponds.

My observation was that the climate of the West or Gulf coast is much more equable and mild, than on the Atlantic slope, a fact which the more advanced state of vegetation, from Cedar Keys to Gainesville fully proves.—W. W. CALKINS, *Chicago, Ill.*

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*Contributions to American Botany, VII.*—Descriptions of New Species of Plants, with revisions of *Lychnis*, *Eriogonum* and *Chorizanthe*, by Sereno Watson.

This is a pamphlet of about 35 pages and shows how busy Mr. Watson has been. He has here described nearly 50 new species of plants and has revised three genera, one of them an exceedingly large and difficult one. *Lychnis* is revised with eleven species belonging to America, five of them being new. One glancing over their range is struck with the fact that every one of them, with perhaps the exception of one, is confined to Greenland and high north or to the summits of Western mountain peaks. Prefacing his revision of *Eriogonum*, Mr. Watson remarks that seven years only have elapsed since the revision of the *Eriogoneae* by Dr. Gray, but so many new species have

been described that it seems not useless to give again a summary of the two larger genera of the group. This is an enormous western genus, numbering 95 species, seven of them being described for the first time in this contribution, six by Mr. Watson, and one by Prof. Porter. *Chorizanthe*, a polymorphous genus, with which the genus *Centrostegia* is united, numbers 25 species, six of which are here described for the first time. Besides these three, twenty other genera have received an accession of species. *Amarantus* has received five new species; *Habernaria*, three; *Lacatera*, *Lupinus*, *Oenothera* and *Elaterium*, each two; *Thelypodium*, *Malcastrum*, *Psoralea*, *Lythrum*, *Mentzelia*, *Angelica*, *Mirabilis*, *Abronia*, *Rumex*, *Orytheca*, *Atriplex*, *Corallorhiza*, *Sisyrinchium* and *Erythronium*, each one.

Catalogue of the Society for the Exchange of Plants, Budapest, Hungary, 1876.—This catalogue is of large dimensions and contains some very valuable plants. Richter Lajos especially desires to receive *Rosa*, *Rubus*, *Orchis*, *Scleranthus*, *Hieracium*, *Elatine*, *Viola*, *Primula*, *Salix*, *Verbascum*, *Pulsatilla*, and *Polygonum aviculare*.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Part I.—January, February, and March, 1877.—The botanical papers are not numerous or lengthy. The first paper is the termination of a little discussion begun and carried on in *Nature* by Dr. Gray and Thos. Meehan in reference to the fertilization of *Browallia elata*. The next paper of botanical interest is a List of Ballast Plants in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, by Isaac Burk. The list numbers 125 species, giving the locality of each and also its native habitat except when it belongs to the British coasts. M. C. Cooke has a paper on the *Valsei* of the United States. Among the *Valsei* he includes the names of only two genera, namely, *Valsa* and *Melanconis*. The paper is presented as a contribution towards the more complete and satisfactory knowledge of the Fungi of the United States. *Valsa* numbers 133 species, and *Melanconis* five. Mr. Meehan also has some short papers, or rather notes, on "Influence of Nutrition on Fertilization," "The Bluebird and Holly Berries," "Vitality of Seeds under Low Temperature," and "Evolutionary Law, as Illustrated by Abnormal Growth in an Apple Tree."

American Naturalist, July.—*Habernaria rotundifolia* must be called *Orchis rotundifolia*, as after examination of live plants sent to the Botanic Garden, Dr. Gray has found the plant to be a genuine *Orchis* and a true congener of *O. spectabilis*. Dr. J. H. Mellichamp has a note recording some late observations made by him upon the intoxicating power of the sweet secretion of *Sarracenia variolaris*. In 1874 he had stated that the sweet secretion was simply a lure to insects and not stupefying or intoxicating, but another observer having arrived at conclusions directly opposite, fresh experiments were made which resulted in the same conclusions that were first arrived at. Dr. Mellichamp also sent two phials of the fluid found at the bottom of the *Sarracenia* tubes. Experiments were made in the Botanical Laboratory and confirmed the following statement made by Dr. Mellichamp: "Pour out a teaspoonful or two of the fluid in an ounce measure, or a small wine glass. Throw in a fly so that his wings will be wet or slimed. He will in a few minutes cease to struggle and will appear as if dead. Take him out after a while and let him dry, and in about half an hour he will revive." The experiments with the fluid are still in progress, and we are promised the detailed results in the August *Naturalist*.

THE GERMINATION OF THE GENUS MEGARRHIZA, TORR.; by Asa Gray.—The following article is of such general interest that we quote it entire from the *Am. Jour. of Science and Arts* for July:

"The object of this brief communication is to describe a peculiar structure which *Megarrhiza Californica* exhibits in germination, and to call for observations upon other species, at the time of germination, in the hope of thereby extending our present imper-